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Silver Skeletons

by Oren Arnold

"Whar you goin', Ed?" Al Sieber asked his friend who was saddling a mule, one day in 1877.

"Just out a ways, looking for stones," Ed Schieffelin replied.

"Don't you know this country's full of Indians? Only stone you'll find will be your tombstone."

But Ed rode out, alone. Next day his mule suddenly shied at something white. Ed dismounted. There on the hillside lay the skeletons of two men! Moreover, their outstretched arms touched a pile of silver nuggets. Excitedly Ed looked around, found the source of the ore, then rushed home to file his claim. In a few months he was a millionaire and a city of 15,000 people had sprung up there, wildest, toughest boom town in Western history. Its name? Remembering his friend's prophesy, Ed Schieffelin grinned to himself on that discovery day and said:

"I'll name this place Tombstone."

Thus Tombstone, Arizona, and its newspaper The Epitaph, have become famous the world 'round.

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